

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 03892 280124Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SPTA-02 HA-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /088 W

-----111613 290049Z/15

R 272015Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9019

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

RUT TD/AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA 4880

USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN SALVADOR 3892

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, PINR, PN, OAS, ES

SUBJECT: OAS APPOINTMENT OF FORMER PRESIDENT MOLINA AS ELECTIONS

OBSERVER: FOX IS SENT TO GUARD CHICKEN COOP

1. MANY EYEBROWS HAVE BEEN RAISED IN SAN SALVADOR OVER THE ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE LOCAL PRESS THAT EX-PRESIDENT (1972-1977) COL. ARTURO ARMANDO MOLINA HAS BEEN DESIGNATED BY THE OAS AS ONE OF THE OBSERVERS OF THE ELECTIONS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE AUGUST 6 IN PANAMA. THE 1972 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS THAT RESULTED IN MOLINA'S TAKING OFFICE ARE CONSIDERED BY MANY INFORMED PEOPLE TO HAVE BEEN "FRAUGHT WITH FRAUD" AND THE 1977 ELECTION OVER WHICH HE PRESIDED HAS RAISED SOME QUESTION ON ITS OWN. WHEN ASKED BY A LOCAL NEWSPAPER REPORTER IF HIS ACCEPTANCE OF THE OAS DESIGNATION AS AN ELECTIONS OBSERVER CONFLICTED WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT HE MADE BEFORE LEAVING OFFICE IN 1977 THAT HE WOULD NOT ENGAGE IN ANY FURTHER POLITICAL ACTIVITY, MOLINA REPLIED: "I HONESTLY THINK THAT THIS IS AN

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EXCELLENT FIELD IN WHICH TO CONTINUE COMPLYING WITH MY DUTY AS A SALVADORAN CITIZEN."

2. WHILE MANY CAN DISPUTE THE PROPRIETY OF NAMING MOLINA AS AN OAS ELECTIONS OBSERVER, IT CAN BE READILY ARGUED THAT BASED ON HIS PAST EXPERIENCE, MOLINA AT LEAST WILL KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN TERMS OF POSSIBLE

FRAUD IN THE PANAMANIAN ELECTIONS. ON THE OTHER HAND, OTHERS WOULD  
SAY HE WOULD NOT BE AWARE OF WHAT REALLY CONSTITUTES FREE AND  
FAIR ELECTIONS.

DEVINE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESIDENT, ELECTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978SANSA03892  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780311-0100  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** SAN SALVADOR  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780714/aaaaalgx.tel  
**Line Count:** 66  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 jul 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1867057  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** OAS APPOINTMENT OF FORMER PRESIDENT MOLINA AS ELECTIONS OBSERVER: FOX IS SENT TO GUARD CHICKEN COOP  
**TAGS:** PEPR, PDIP, PINR, PN, ES, OAS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkvgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/a62fd76b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014